Social Employee for Security General Staff Member (GMS)

A category of unofficial informants that existed since 1968, defined by Directive 1/79 as possessing a publicly recognized "**state-conscious attitude and demeanor"** and acting accordingly.

With these informants, the Ministry for State Security (MfS) aimed to **"involve broad societal forces"** in intelligence gathering and preventative security tasks.

The activities of the informants were seen as an expression of **"widespread public vigilance"** and were intended to relieve the burden on operational staff and unofficial collaborators.

The selection, vetting, and recruitment of GMS (General Staff Members) were carried out in a similar manner to that of unofficial collaborators.

However, the requirements regarding adherence to clandestine rules and record-keeping were, especially until 1981, less stringent than for unofficial collaborators.

GMS (General Staff Members) were also generally not to be used for the direct **"processing"** of **"hostile"** individuals.

There were ultimately 33,000 GMS .